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Warren Board Nears End of Probe Into the Assassination of Kennedy

WASHINGTON (UPI) — With a mountain of detail piling up in its files, the Warren Commission is approaching the end of its exhaustive investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Unless some unforeseen development demands expanded investigation, the seven-man commission expects to finish sometime within the next two months.

But at this point, even commission members are not sure what will happen to their report after it is submitted to President Johnson.

THE COMMISSION that investigated the Pearl Harbor disaster would be closest thing to a precedent for this commission, a staff member said. A Justice Department law-

yer said the report of the commission that investigated Pearl Harbor under the chairmanship of Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts had no legal status in the sense that it cannot be used as proof in any court case.

The purpose of most commissions appointed by the President is to develop information that can be used as the basis for changing government procedures, he explained.

"This is certainly part of the purpose of the Warren Commission, as it was of the Roberts Commission," he said. "But both of these reports are aimed much more at the public than is the case with most presidential commissions."

WHETHER there will be any changes in the procedures

for protecting a President as a result of the commission's report is problematical.

By Jan. 29, about two months after the commission began its work, the FBI had submitted more than 250 investigative reports containing more than 10,800 pages.

Since that time, it has turned over several thousand more pages containing specific information requested by the commission.

SECRET SERVICE agents told the commission about the specific steps taken in advance of President Kennedy's fatal visit to Dallas Nov. 22.

Secret Service witnesses also included four men who were riding in the presidential motorcade when Mr. Kennedy was shot.

The commission's investigation has ranged far beyond the protection given to the President.

WHEN IT was created, the commission announced that it planned to cover:

- Every detail of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald's activities on Nov. 22.

- The life and background of Oswald, with an attempt to assess his ideas and psychology.

- Oswald's career in the Marine Corps and his stay in the Soviet Union.

- The murder of Oswald in the Dallas police station and

all aspects of how it could have occurred.

- The story of Jack Ruby, the night club owner who shot Oswald to death before a startled television audience.

- The procedures to protect Mr. Kennedy, the performances of the Secret Service, the FBI, the Dallas police, and possible influence of hate movements and extremist organizations in the Texas area.

The commission has covered all of these areas except the role played by Ruby, which was intentionally left to the last so there would be no conflict with the pudgy night club owner's trial in Dallas.

DETAILS of Oswald's activities on Nov. 22 were related by the youth with whom he rode to work, persons who worked with him at the Texas Book Depository, eyewitnesses who saw a gun protruding from a sixth floor window in the depository building, a bus driver and a cab driver who had Oswald as a passenger shortly after the shooting, and Dallas police who investigated the slaying of Patrolman J. D. Tippitt.

Oswald's life story and his background were related by his widow, Mrs. Marina Oswald; his mother, Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, and his brother, Robert L. Oswald.

ON AT LEAST two occasions, the commission requested, and received from the Russians papers and information about Oswald's activities behind the Iron Curtain.